

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2018 FALL.....ISSUE #4/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



Farwell T. Brown amassed an important collection of photographs that are the basis of the Society's collection of Ames images.

### Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President	Sharon Wirth
Co-President	Peter Hallock
Secretary	Lynette Spicer
Treasurer	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Dan Franklin, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Ryan Riley,

The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

### Staff:

Executive Director	Casie Vance
Research & Exhibits Manager	Alex Fejfar
Collections Manager	Carly Hlubek

### Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,  
Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010  
**Hours** Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm  
**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010  
**Phone:** 515-232-2148  
**E-mail:** info@ameshistory.org  
**Website:** www.AmesHistory.org  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Closed November to March.

# Exploring Historic Ames

UNIQUE SELECTIONS FROM THE

FARWELL T. BROWN PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Opening November 30 is the Society's next exhibit, *Exploring Historic Ames: Unique Selections from the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive*. It will put a spotlight on this great historical resource and may be viewed until August 2019.

The featured photos were collected by Farwell Brown, Ames historian and the Society's founder, and were chosen based on their ability to view current-day Ames through a historical lens.

Brown accrued his photo collection over several decades from many sources - his own family's collection, contributions by various individuals, Iowa State University Special Collections and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Among the selections, visitors will see early interiors of Ames businesses, stereoscope images by Martin Morrison and a life-sized replica of the H-tree, which will serve as a great photo op!



Grand Ave. train  
derailment, 1981

The exhibit is presented in memory of long-time Society volunteer, Janet Klaas. During her career as information services librarian at the Ames Public Library, Klaas worked for many years with Brown to organize, catalog, index and caption his photograph collection. She passed away in early 2018. The exhibit is presented in partnership with the Ames Public Library, which hosts the full photo collection on its website: [amespubliclibrary.org](http://amespubliclibrary.org) > Research > Local Photo Archive.

The History Center is at 416 Douglas, downtown Ames. Open Tues. – Sat. 10 am-4 pm.

Please join us for  
**Members After Hours**  
**Thursday, November 29, 5-7 pm**



The gathering will allow members to preview the Farwell Brown exhibit, which opens to the public the following day.

Enjoy fall-themed refreshments - soup, hot cider, sweets - and a chance to visit with other members.

Members-only event.

# Exhibits & Upcoming Events at the History Center

## 2019 Lecture Series Announced

Mark your calendars for the 2019 roster of talks at the Ames Public Library:

Tuesday, March 26, 7 pm

**John and Rowena Stevens: Progressives in Early Ames**, by Peter Hallock, Society Co-President

Wednesday, April 24, 7 pm

**Cheers to 50 Years! Stephens Auditorium Marks a Milestone**, by Tammy Koolbeck, Executive Director, Iowa State Center

Wednesday, May 15, 7 pm

**The Civilian Conservation Corps in Iowa**, by Linda McCann, author and historical researcher

BONUS LECTURE: Thursday, May 23, 7 pm

**History of American Popular Music**, by Michael Lasser, lecturer, writer, broadcaster and host of the public radio's nationally syndicated *Fascinatin' Rhythm*

Wednesday, June 26, 7 pm

**From Fair View to Parkview: the Battle to Save the Morris Farm from Involuntary Annexation**, by Edie Hunter, History graduate student, Iowa State University

## Cemetery Walk Postponed



Inclement weather conspired to delay our planned Cemetery Walk, which was to be October 14 or 21. Please be assured that the Walk will take place, but not until next spring when we will hope for better conditions! When it happens, it will feature costumed readers "in character" relating the stories of notable Ames women.

## Current Hallway Exhibits

### *Fly With Banning*

James Herman Banning was the first African American pilot to fly across the United States. He learned to fly while living in Ames.

### *Artifacts from the Attic: Dolls*

The story of a family doll found in an Ames attic and other dolls from our collection.

### *Ames Bottlers*

This exhibit provides information about two bottling companies in Ames.

### *Younkers Little Shop*

The Ames store on Main Street, known as "Younkers Little Shop," was the first branch store, opening in 1941.



## OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS Saturday, December 1, 10 am - 4 pm at the Ames History Center

Join us for holiday treats, kids' holiday crafts and a visit from Santa!

**10 am - 12 pm:**

Pose for a photo with Santa Claus

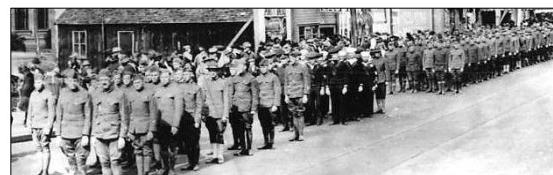
**10 am - 4 pm:**

Enjoy holiday crafts and refreshments



## Special Lobby Exhibit

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11, a greatly enlarged panorama of the Ames parade for World War I soldiers returning home is on view in the History Center's hallway.



## Annual Meeting Double-Header

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be teamed up with the first lecture in our 2019 series.

Here's the schedule for March 26:

6:30-6:45 pm Annual meeting  
6:45-7 pm Treats & socializing  
7 pm Lecture begins

Please plan to join us for an overview of 2018 activities and the required vote approving new Board members.

## Holiday Closures

The History Center will be closed for:

Thanksgiving: Thurs.-Sat., November 22-24

Christmas: Sat.-Tues., December 22-25

New Year's: Tues., January 1

# Society News – Benefit Dinner – Brown Award



## Benefit Dinner Wrap-up

We would like to thank the 109 people who attended and contributed to the August 25 annual Benefit Dinner at Ames High - you made it so fun and well, beneficial! Net proceeds were \$6,752.32, our best-ever event.

Benefit sponsors were:

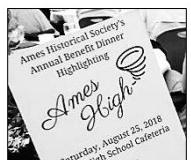
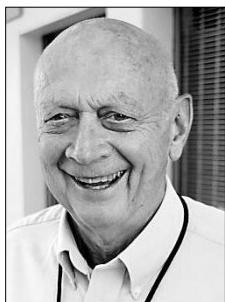
Northcrest Community and Adams Funeral Home.

Raffle/auction donors were:

Ames Family Dental, Arcadia Cafe, Aunt Maude's, Jeff & Jan Breitman, Stewart Buck, Della Viti, Rachel Ford, Gilger Designs, Fred & Carol Hoiberg, Mary Kay's Flowers, Jo Myers Walker, Roosevelt Condominium Residents, Tracey Stoll, and Dean and Ardy Ulrichson.



All the Ames High graduates in attendance (plus Bill Ripp) assembled for a group picture (above). In dress, there was a lot of school color, like Bonnie Norman, who came in black and orange with authentic vintage touches. Speaker, Brian Jenkins (left), reminisced about his life at and after Ames High School. Among a number of Ames High old-timers was former coach, Jim Duea (below). The fight song was duly sung, a delicious dinner was served and well-deserved awards presented. All-in-all, a festive and social evening that supported local history!



## Farwell T. Brown Award Presented to Janet Klaas

The 2018 Farwell T. Brown Award for Exceptional Service to the Ames Historical Society was awarded posthumously to Janet Klaas at the Benefit Dinner.



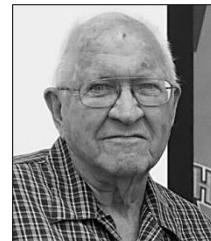
Long before Ames had a museum facility, Ames Historian Farwell Brown used space in the library to store his collection and work on his research. He became familiar to library staff, including Janet Klaas, who was the information services librarian at the time.

Farwell had amassed an extensive collection of historic Ames photographic images and library director, George Lawson, wrote a grant to digitize them for the library's website. The scanning was done by volunteers but each image needed caption information to provide users with historical facts. Janet was the library employee assigned to get the job done. She and Farwell met regularly and in the process, Janet became an expert in Ames history.

When images were loaned to him, Farwell re-photographed them to create new negatives. The grant funded the printing of hard copies that Janet catalogued and stored archivally. She became the guardian of this collection and assisted people who needed access to it.

She also edited two of Farwell's books – his third volume on Ames history and his transcription of his grandfather's Civil War memories and diary. Janet later organized two public programs of readings from Farwell's books.

After she retired in 2009, Janet immediately became a volunteer for the Society and undertook numerous research projects. In an often repeated strategy, Janet took the bare facts she found and sought more background information to create a bigger picture.



Aided by Barb Munson and Cindy Pease, Janet later undertook the transcription of audio and video recordings by local residents, each embellished with pictures and additional materials.



Janet was a knowledgeable and steady presence for the cause of local history and she is greatly missed. She left this earth on January 26. The award was accepted by her husband, Erv Klaas and daughter, Abigail Klaas Chungath (left).

## Society News – Benefit Dinner - History Maker Award

### New History Maker Award

A new award this year is the Ames History Maker Award. It honors an individual, company, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of Ames. The award was given to the extended Adams Family.

**Benjamin and Rebecca Adams** moved to Ames from Ohio in 1869. The couple was active in establishing the Ames Christian Church. Rebecca's brothers, **Walt** and **Milton** Evans, operated the first grain elevator in Ames.

Benjamin and Rebecca had six children who lived to adulthood – **Jim, John, Anna, Sadie, Jay** and **Minnie**. Jim and Jay became well known businessmen in Ames.

When Jay's father died in 1886, he planned to use his inheritance to go to college. However, George Tilden convinced him that the experience of working in a grocery store would be just as beneficial. **Jay** worked as a store clerk, then bought the store and took his brother **Jim** as his partner.

In 1889, **Jay**, his sister **Minnie** and her husband, E.C. Potter bought a furniture and undertaking company. In 1924, they sold the furniture part and Jay became the sole undertaking owner. He moved the business into the Greeley house at Fifth and Douglas, where it still operates today as Adams Funeral Home.

Jay's brother Jim served on the Ames City Council. Their children were **Howard** and **Jessie**. Howard worked with his father and uncle in the grocery store, running a popcorn and peanut machine and making candy. In 1913, he opened his own candy store on Main Street. In 1928, the popular business moved to Campustown as "The Kandy Kettle." Howard also served for 40 years as a volunteer fireman.

Jay and Lynn Adams had four children: **Caroline, Chev, Clint** and **Frank**. In 1930, **Clint** and **Frank** became partners in the undertaking business. In 1933, **Chev** and **Clint** became partners in the Collegiate Manufacturing Company. Collegiate traces its roots to 1904, when the Tilden department store's alterations department began sewing college pennants. It incorporated as a separate entity in 1913. The name was changed to Collegiate Manufacturing when Chev and Clint took over.

Collegiate Manufacturing was located in the Masonic Building, (now, Octagon Center for the Arts) at Fifth and Douglas. It expanded to become the nation's leading supplier of college memorabilia, including "personality pets," t-shirts, and pennants. During World War II, the company earned the Army/Navy "E" Award for Excellence for producing ponchos and raincoats. In 1954,

the company's head designer created the first Cy mascot for Iowa State. In 1974, Collegiate Manufacturing became known as Collegiate-Pacific. In 1986, Collegiate-Pacific moved its operations to Virginia, where it still operates.

**Chev, Clint** and **Frank** all participated in the Koffee Klatsch, a club that met in the basement of the Collegiate building. In the 1930-40s, Koffee Klatch helped form the Ames Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Story County, provided support for Ames High athletics, and supported construction of the Sixth Street bridge, helping further connect campus to downtown Ames.

In addition to being a partner at Adams Funeral Home and a silent partner at Collegiate, **Clint** was a farm manager, served on City Council for two years and was mayor from 1946 to 1948. Clint and Margaret had three children: **Jack, Bruce** and **Marna**. **Jack** was an officer at Collegiate and volunteered on the Society's Board.

Along with serving as president of Collegiate Manufacturing, **Chev** was also an officer at College Savings Bank and at Littlefield-Adams book publishing company. Chev and Lydia had three children, each of whom died at a young age.

Frank and Virginia had three children: **Terry, Linda**, and **Pamela**. **Frank** served on the school board from 1944 to 1965. In 1964, **Terry** joined the undertaking business and in 1968 took over its operations when Frank and Clint retired. Terry served on the original board of the Ames Historical Society, which formed in 1980. When Terry retired in 2002, Adams Funeral Home was sold outside the family.

As you can see, the contributions of this family are endless. From Benjamin down to Terry and beyond, Adams family members have had an impact on the story of Ames with their businesses and public service.



Several Adams family generations were present at the dinner.

## 67 Years: Ames Municipal Band

Speaking of Terry Adams, he was recognized for playing in the Ames Municipal Band since 1951! At the Band's final summer concert this year, Adams was honored with a plaque and his favorite band music, German polkas.



Terry's parents set his musical course by having him learn the clarinet in fifth grade. He protested the idea at first, but learned to appreciate band music. Thanks to his junior high band director,

Richard Day, Adams learned to play the alto sax, soprano sax and bass clarinet. Day eventually invited him to play in the Ames Municipal Band. After that, Adams performed with them for 67 years, playing four different instruments. However, his love always belonged to the bass clarinet – he served as the band's first chair.

Terry's wife Helene supported his interests. When they were first dating, Helene knew that music was always going to be a part of their lives. "Our early dates were Thursday nights at the band concerts. We would listen to the concert and then go to Boyd's for ice cream," she said. They even planned their vacations around the summer band concerts. "There is band and then there is the rest of life," Terry is quoted as saying!

Excerpted from an Ames Tribune article by Lyn Keren

## News briefs

- The society provided volunteers at **Rummage Rampage**, ISU's year-end sale that takes student discarded but usable goods out of the trash stream. AHS received **\$425.66** for their work.
- When shopping on Amazon, remember to log in to Amazon's charitable giving program, Amazon Smile, ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) to return a portion of your purchases to the Society! Select Ames Historical Society, then shop as usual.
- Join the 2,524 people who "like" us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the **Ames Tribune** are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Don't forget to take a look at and ask to be "friended" on the "**Lost Ames**" Facebook page.
- One of Farwell T. Brown books has been **re-issued**: *A Soldier's Life*, about his grandfather's Civil War experiences. See it in our Museum Shop.

## Society Wish List

Our **grateful thanks** go to Doug and Wendy Livy, Jim Lester and Sharon Wirth who have donated office supplies.

### Continued wishes:

- Donations to purchase **Polk Directories**. We have a complete set of historical city directories, but are missing some of the more modern years: 2009 and 2011 through 2017. They cost \$115 each; we would love to purchase these for our reference collection, or if you have these books, please consider donating them! They are unique in that listings are sorted alphabetically, by address and by phone number.
- Ames **photos** from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive).
- Ongoing **subscription** to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95).
- Funds for **archival boxes** (approximately \$13 each), containers we endlessly need.
- Office and building **supplies**: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Additional donations toward **printing** the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color.

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).



## Another New Marker in Place

After several years in the works, a historical marker has been placed at the SW corner of the former site of Carr's Pool. It features information and pictures about Emmett and Alpha Carr and the construction of Ames' first public pool. The former bathhouse remains on the site. The plaque was funded by Donna Carr (right), one of the three adopted Carr children, Dennis Wendell (center) and Ames Parks & Recreation Department (Keith Abraham, left).



Don't forget to find the new Depot marker, too. It is near the NW corner of HyVee Drug Store on Main St.

# Society News

## Share Your 6-on-6 Story

Jennifer Sterling of the University of Iowa's Women's Archives presented a talk on 6-on-6 girls' basketball during the run of the "Hometown Teams" exhibits. It was well-attended with many former 6-on-6 players present. Sterling is eager to preserve 6-on-6 stories – so if you are a former player, contact her, no matter how small or large your story! Call her at 319-335-5068, email her at lib-women@uiowa.edu or visit U of I's Main Library. The archive holds more than 1,100 manuscript collections that chronicle the lives and work of women, their families and their communities dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Open to the public: Monday by appointment, Tuesday-Friday 10 am to noon, 1-5 pm.



The Smithsonian's Hometown Teams and the four other sports-related exhibits were launched on October 4 with a festive tailgate featuring the ISU Pep Band and a "dance off" by area mascots!



Vintage area baseball uniforms were featured in the History Center exhibit, "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped Ames." Ten collectible Ames trading cards were also created for the show.

## More News Briefs

- We've mentioned many times the work Janet Klaas did transcribing audio and video recordings. We are so grateful that her work is being carried on by two dedicated volunteers, Teresa "TJ" Larson and Barb Munson. TJ continues to videotape new interviews.
- Enjoy the Lost Ames Facebook page? Take a look at Lost Iowa: [facebook.com/groups/forgotteniowa/](https://facebook.com/groups/forgotteniowa/)
- Ames Tribune newspapers, 1877 to 2016, are now online at [amespubliclibrary.org](http://amespubliclibrary.org) and [ames.advantage-preservation.com](http://ames.advantage-preservation.com). This free service will be an incredible boon to researchers all over the world! More years will be added. Searches can be filtered by date and keywords. The project was funded by Ames Public Library Friends Foundation.

## Appealing To You

The Ames Historical Society is a small organization doing a big job with limited resources.

Members have received our annual appeal letter with a "numbers" page of 2018's accomplishments, numbers that document our steady service to the community.

### Why should you donate?

First, we want to respond to residents' requests for more services and, secondly, we face big challenges.

- Collection storage is at full capacity and additional space is needed.
- There are more demands on our staff, we need to pay them a living wage and we'd like to further expand our programs.
- We occupy half of our building. If we could build our Endowment from \$145,700 to over \$600,000, we could better utilize space we badly need.

Funds from this appeal go to the operating fund but additional donations to the endowment fund are welcome.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$500  \$250  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check OR  Credit card

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send info about adding the Society to my will.

Send to Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010

### New Life for an Old Building

By Sharon Wirth, Society Co-president

For many months, activity and equipment around 131 Main have caused much curiosity. Here's the story!

About this time 127 years ago, a red brick building was under construction at the NE corner of Main and Douglas, 131 Main. Known as the Boyd-Douglass Building, the first floor was soon occupied by Parley Sheldon's Story County Bank. The building was typical 1890s design with large first floor windows, paired second floor windows, a denticulated brick-worked cornice and a bay projection on west side. The building has 2 facades – with the Douglas Avenue side measuring 90 feet.



This corner was the center of the downtown business district until 1916 when the hub moved to the Sheldon Munn Hotel at the corner of Main and Kellogg, though Main and Douglas remained an important location.

By 1926, Iowa Railway and Light occupied 131 Main. Power and light companies used the building for the remainder of the century.

Since Sheldon's bank, numerous changes to the building have occurred. In 1953, James Thompson and Sons (now Story Construction) began a major renovation for the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company. This resulted in the streamlined appearance and creamy yellow brick veneer we see today. Aluminum windows and exterior doors were installed. Stringcourses were added, wrapping around both facades at the top and above and below the windows (right). The second floor has three string courses with projecting brick between the windows. The 2/2 configuration of the windows aligning with the projecting brick of the stringcourses create a horizontal feel to the building.

In June 2017, Avec Holdings purchased 131 Main and Avec Design+Build is providing architectural and construction services. As an architect-led firm, they are both designer and general contractor. Exploratory demolition

began in August 2017 to understand the amount of deterioration and identify historic features. With a budget of \$750,000, they began the process of returning the building to its 1953 appearance.

Time and neglect had taken a toll on the building. Water damage necessitated rebuilding the north wall. A chimney was removed. The building was tuck pointed and re-roofed. Second floor joists were stabilized and floors leveled. Asbestos, layers of ceilings, walls and leftover furnishings were removed. Wiring was replaced. Energy-efficient windows and doors matching the 1953 features were installed.

On first floor, an exciting surprise was an 1890s 14-foot tin ceiling hidden by dropped ceilings. This was salvaged, repaired and painted after locating matching pieces from neighbor, Scott Griffen. On first floor, glass blocks and 1890s floor boards were exposed. Another surprise was the limestone foundation wall hidden under layers of wall material. It will be cleaned, sealed and left exposed along with original brick in a new conference room.

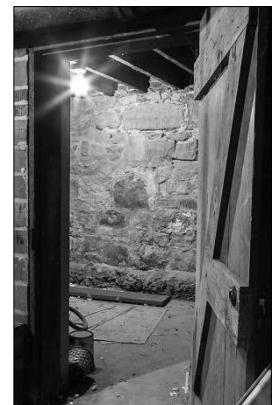
Avec staff has worked closely with the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure an accurate restoration. Financial incentives included applying for state and federal tax credits and a City of Ames facade grant.

Although the entire project is not quite complete, Avec plans to occupy the first floor in late November while remaining details are completed. On second floor is additional office and/or retail space. Watch for a future update as this exciting project is completed!



Above: Stringcourses shown on the second level.

Below: the uncovered tin ceiling and limestone foundation wall.

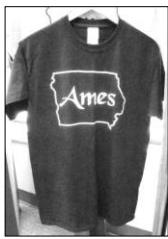


Ames Historical Society  
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Ames, Iowa 50010

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## Return Service Requested

### Museum Shop



**MEMBER BENEFIT:**  
15% off all shop items, all the time!

#### NEW ORNAMENT

A porcelain ornament featuring the Dinkey is now available – a sweet memento of a memorable era in Ames history. White/black/burgundy, \$10

#### GAMES, BOOKS, COFFEE, MUGS

Many unique Ames-related items may be selected in our Shop, including Burgie's Onondaga Blend coffee. Stuff for both kids and adults – stop in and take a look!

#### AMES, IOWA TEE-SHIRT

Black or grey; just \$12

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



During the "Cathedrals of the Plains" exhibit, noteworthy grain elevators were featured, including our own Froning & Deppe Elevator that was south

of Main Street near Duff Avenue. At the opening, Bob Deppe was on hand to talk about his personal experiences at the elevator. It was burned in a fire service practice fire in 1979.

#### Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010